

The present issue of *Word and Sense* focuses on contributions related to literary history. Quite naturally, this wide thematic range is pursued along several levels, including general methodological or interdisciplinary inquiries, analyses of personalities and concepts relevant in the transformations of literary historiography, as well as interpretations of various literary-historical phenomena and particular literary works. The contributions of the introductory section, **Studies and Sketches**, are equally varied: Josef Vojvodík (*A Textual Earthquake and Meaning Shaken: 19th-Century Literature as a Hermeneutic Problem*) focused on the model of temporalization of historical processes in connection with the concept of national revival as laid out in Hana Šmahelová's *V síti dějin národního obrození*. (Vojvodík's lecture, as well as Martin Tichý's essay, was first presented in September 2016 in Liberec at the conference Linguistics and Literary Science: Paths and Perspectives, in a panel on literary theory, also dedicated to Hana Šmahelová.) Specific features of the methodological discussion regarding the current situation and the possibilities of literary history in Poland are outlined by Żaneta Nalewajk (*A Vote of Confidence? On the Aims and Functions of History of Literature*). Martin Tichý points out the connections between literary-historical approach and literary criticism, characteristic of Arne Novák's professional work (*The Historical Perspective in Literary Criticism: On the Change in Arne Novák's Practical Criticism in the 1910s*). Michal Topor (*Alfred Klaar: Berlin Reflections on the Homeland Landscape*) analyzes Klaar's journalism from Berlin as an example of a policy of remembering and writing the history of Czech lands. Michal Hořejší's subject is *The Image of Karel Klostermann in Czech (Literary) Historiography*, its forms and inaccuracies, and its place in the discourse about Šumava. The final two contributions of this section relate to Spanish literature and culture: Juan A. Sánchez presents the specific genre of Spanish literature (*The Past and Present of the Spanish folletín Novel*) and Tiziano D'Amico the typological and temporal parallels of the image of the undemocratic past in two television series (*Television and the Transnational Memory of Undemocratic Pasts: A Comparison between Spain and the Czech Republic*).

The extended section **Retrospective** presents two editions that illuminate the nature and context of two compendia devoted to the history of Czech literature: Luboš Merhaut comments on Vlček and Jakubec's programmatic polemical critique of František Bačkovský's 1886 *Zevrubné dějiny českého písemnictví doby nové*; Annalisa



Cosentino presents a newly discovered collection of letters from 1948–1952, written to A. M. Ripellino in connection with his 1950 *Storia della poesia ceca contemporanea* by Roman Jakobson, Ludvík Kundera, Karel Teige, Jindřich Chalupecký, Jan Jelínek, René Wellek, Renato Poggioli, Oldřich Králík and Albert Pražák.

Thanks to Michal Topor, the usual section **Question for...** has been transformed for once into a survey, where the question ‘Have you recently come across a work (book, article, etc.) which you appreciate as methodologically refreshing or stimulating’ has drawn responses of a genuinely representative and interdisciplinary sample of scholars, including Mieke Bal, Catherine Belsey, Klaus Birnstiel, Moritz Csáky, Jonathan Culler, Bernard Franco, Stephen Greenblatt, Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, Jean-Marc Hovasse, Fredric Jameson, Amália Kerekes, Alice Stašková, Wasilij Szczukin and Claus Zittel.

Instructive perspectives are also offered by the **Translations** included in this issue: the American philosopher and theorist of gender Judith Butler considers the notion of *Regulation* in a social-artistic framework, and the French historian François Hartog reflects on the current historical practice and the concept of historicity in the problematic light of ‘presentism’ — the reality of the moment.

The extensive section devoted to **Critical Views** comprises further suggestions regarding numerous concepts of literary and cultural history — successful and inspirational, as well as doubtful and controversial ones. The reviewers (Václav Smyčka, Hana Šmahelová, Jiří Almer, Adéla Petruželková, Jiří Zizler, Markéta Kittlová, Josef Řídký, Tereza Šnellerová and Lucie Malá) are looking, respectively, at the history of Prague university aesthetics in the first half of the 19th century, the funeral culture and the culture of death at the period of the national revival, the image of America in Czech literature and culture from the second half of the 19th century to the present, the provocative and constantly returning questions of contemporary literary-historical practice, the forms of an integrative artistic effort in Czech interwar literature and their social resonance, the situation and fate of the Jewish community during the Czechoslovak Second Republic, the theoretical inquiries into memory and trauma in a commented anthology of essay, the edition of Jiří Kolář’s four books of poems within the *Česká knihnice* series, and the disfiguring ‘courteousness’ in the practice of criticism and interpretation in the 1970s and 1980s.

On behalf of the Editors of *Word and Sense* LM, transl. by MP